

WONG IRWIN  
Form 5  
February 13, 2009

**FORM 5**

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).  
Form 3 Holdings Reported Form 4 Transactions Reported

**ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES**

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person \*  
WONG IRWIN

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol  
CATHAY GENERAL BANCORP [CATY]

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

3. Statement for Issuer's Fiscal Year Ended (Month/Day/Year)  
12/31/2008

\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_ 10% Owner  
 Officer (give title below) \_\_\_\_\_ Other (specify below)  
EVP - Branch Administration

777 NORTH BROADWAY

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Reporting

(check applicable line)

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

Form Filed by One Reporting Person  
 Form Filed by More than One Reporting Person

(City) (State) (Zip)

**Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned at end of Issuer's Fiscal Year (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4)
				(A) or (D)	Amount or Price		
Common Stock	01/23/2008	Â	J <sup>(1)</sup>	21.637 A	\$ 22.5979	10,384.02 D	Â
Common Stock	04/22/2008	Â	J <sup>(1)</sup>	28.216 A	\$ 17.409	10,384.02 D	Â
Common Stock	07/22/2008	Â	J <sup>(1)</sup>	42.973 A	\$ 11.5	10,384.02 D	Â
Common Stock	10/21/2008	Â	J <sup>(1)</sup>	24.497 A	\$ 20.3578	10,384.02 D	Â

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Common Stock    12/31/2008    Â    J<sup>(2)</sup>    409    A    \$ 17.9242    16,350    I    By ESOP

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

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(9-02)

**Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned**  
(e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)
					(A) (D)	Date Exercisable    Expiration Date	Title    Amount of Number of Shares
Stock Option	\$ 10.625	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	01/20/2005 <sup>(3)</sup> 01/20/2010	Common Stock    3,576
Stock Option	\$ 15.0475	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	01/18/2005 <sup>(3)</sup> 01/18/2011	Common Stock    6,448
Stock Option	\$ 16.275	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	02/21/2005 <sup>(3)</sup> 02/21/2012	Common Stock    11,088
Stock Option	\$ 19.925	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	01/16/2005 <sup>(3)</sup> 01/16/2013	Common Stock    30,064
Stock Option	\$ 24.8	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	11/20/2004 <sup>(3)</sup> 11/20/2013	Common Stock    143,040
Stock Option	\$ 37	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	02/17/2006 <sup>(4)</sup> 02/17/2015	Common Stock    32,580
Stock Option	\$ 36.24	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	01/25/2007 <sup>(5)</sup> 01/25/2016	Common Stock    31,000
Stock Option	\$ 23.37	Â	Â	Â	Â Â	02/21/2009 <sup>(6)</sup> 02/21/2018	Common Stock    20,000

## Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
WONG IRWIN 777 NORTH BROADWAY	Â	Â	Â EVP - Branch Administration	Â

LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

## Signatures

Irwin Wong

02/13/2009

Signature of  
Reporting Person

Date

## Explanation of Responses:

- \* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 4(b)(v).
- \*\* Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).
- (1) Dividend Reinvestment.
- (2) ESOP Earning Allocation.
- (3) The option is fully exercisable.
- (4) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 2/17/06.
- (5) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 1/25/07.
- (6) The option vests in 5 equal annual installments beginning 2/21/09.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space provided is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure. Potential persons who are to respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB number.